

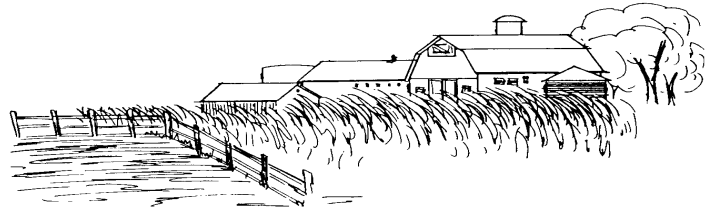


UTAH
AGRICULTURAL
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News Release

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Release No: 13-05 Date: March 31, 2005

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Planting Intentions

UTAH: Utah farm operators, as of March 1, 2005 intend to plant more acres of all wheat, spring wheat, all hay, and dry beans, but fewer acres of corn and barley. Planting intentions for oats is at the same level as last year.

Corn acres planted are expected to be 50,000, down 5,000 acres from the previous year. All wheat intentions were estimated at 152,000 acres, 9,000 acres more than last year. Winter wheat planting is at 135,000 acres 4 percent above the previous year. Spring wheat planting is expected to total 17,000 acres, up 31 percent from the previous year's level. If current growers' intentions are realized, Utah farmers will plant 60,000 acres of oats, remaining the same as last year. Barley intentions are 40,000 acres, a decrease of 10,000 acres from 2004. Planting intentions for dry edible beans are 6,000 acres, an increase of 700 acres from last year. Harvesting intentions for all hay are 720,000 acres, up 1 percent from last year.

UNITED STATES: Corn growers intend to plant 81.4 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2005, up 1 percent from 2004 and 4 percent above 2003. All wheat planted area is expected to total 58.6 million acres in 2005, down 2 percent from 2004. If realized, this would be the lowest planted acreage since 1972. Winter wheat planted area for the 2005 crop is 41.6 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004, but virtually unchanged from the Winter Wheat Seedings Report. Other spring wheat Growers intend to plant 14.4 million acres this year, up 4 percent from 2004. Oats acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2005 crop year are expected to total 4.27 million acres, up 4 percent from last year's planted area. Barley growers intend to plant 3.97 million acres in 2005, down 12 percent from last year and, if realized, the lowest since barley planted acreage estimates began in 1926. Dry beans prospective for 2005 planting totals 1.66 million acres, up 23 percent from last year and 18 percent above 2 years ago. Hay producers expect to harvest 62.9 million acres of all hay in 2005, up 2 percent from last year.